

Woodville Republican.

"THE PATH OF DUTY."

"IS THE PATH OF SAFETY."

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THE NEW ERA.

From the Southern Press.

THE NEW ERA.

We have arrived at a New Era. The main object of the Union under the present constitution was to secure the harmony of the States. That has at length failed. About one-half of the States have engaged in a course of policy destructive to the rights, the interests, and honor of the other half, and have already succeeded in securing a majority vote in Congress for their spoliation. It was the intention and belief of the framers of the constitution, that the power of the States should be equal to their own protection, and that danger was to be apprehended from their encroachments on the Federal Government, rather than from Federal encroachment on them. This has been completely falsified by experience. It was distinctly held by Mr. Madison in the federalist, that State patronage and honor would preponderate over federal, and that men would be elected to federal office, on questions of State policy rather than federal; and that the danger of the new Government would be from conflicts and smothering among the States, rather than consolidation. Instead of that, men are elected generally, even to the most trivial offices of a State, according to their federal politics, and that is consolidation.

Thus the progress of consolidation has been so great, as at length to result in a coalition of half the States having a majority of the population, to oppress the other half—and through the influence of parties in federal politics, to obtain in such an attempt the support of a portion of the Representatives, and people of the victim States.

What then is to be done? When our fathers found the articles of confederation inadequate for their welfare, they proceeded to amend, and they ended by changing them. Let us do likewise. The Nashville Convention meets again in about seven weeks. Let delegates be sent from every State and district where the people are not lost to a sense of their rights, or to a spirit for asserting them. Let that convention when it assembles, deliberate upon the evils we have suffered, the dangers that are impending, and the mode and measure of redress and safety. Let them not listen to the language of submission—let them not think for a moment of abandoning the South to a future of shame, of injury, of ruin. Nothing has been done, which a people worthy of being free cannot undo. Let South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Mississippi, take their stand, and the rights of the South and the integrity of the Union can be preserved. Let Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and Maryland send delegates. But let no man expect unanimity. Never yet was a great movement made for the assertion of right or the resistance of wrong, with anything like unanimity. The inequalities of human character forbid it. The glory and even the existence of every people always depend on the sagacity, patriotism and energy of a part, and there are now in the South as large a part of her people endowed with the high qualities of their race, as ever led a country in defence of her rights.

Nor let any man suppose there is danger of civil war from an honest, enlightened and manly assertion of southern rights. The North is more dependent on the Union than the South, and will always derive more benefit from it even when its powers are honestly exercised. Manufactures and Commerce may flourish in the South, but neither the genial sun of the latter nor its fertile soil, can ever shine or fructify in the North. The North-west can abound in grain, but the South can produce more than an abundance of her own bread, and the cotton that clothes the world can never grow in the valley of the Ohio.

The North will prefer a union and equality of the States to disunion. The South, we trust, will never acquiesce in an attempt made by Congress to divest her of all share of the territories recently acquired. California can yet be divided—and if millions can be paid to Texas for territorial claims for the sake of northern encroachment, let millions be paid to California for southern right.

The South will demand security for the future also. And this will require a modification of our federal system.

We have had much discussion, for the last few years, on natural and political rights. We shall have more. These questions will be examined thoroughly. The operation of our system will be subjected to a thorough scrutiny, and our paper will abound with discussions from the ablest pens in the land. We expect to lay before our readers a body of fact and argument concerning the nature and results of our institutions, never equalled

since the debate on the federal constitution.

The States of Virginia, Maryland, Georgia and Texas, are all to hold conventions soon, to discuss the fundamental principles of human society, political rights and constitutional powers.

It was, perhaps, time for the public mind to awaken, and rise above the low pursuits of party and of self. And a shock has been given by Congress, which all but the dead must feel. Let, therefore, the patriots and wise men of the land come forth. Let the spirit of our ancestors be invoked—let the institutions they transmitted be preserved and improved.

The South has an ample amount of ability, of power, of resources, to secure the re-establishment of her rights and her safety, in future. If she fails, she will exchange a character that has heretofore extorted the respect of her enemies, for one that will merit the pity and contempt of her friends.

THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION.

All eyes are now directed more and more to the next meeting of the Nashville Convention. The wisdom, the firmness, the moderation of that body have already won the confidence and support of the South. Hundreds of meetings of the people have been held since that body was last in session, and in nineteen cases out of twenty its course has been emphatically approved and ratified. And as the discussion goes on the cause of the South daily gains strength.

The power of Federal patronage and the letters of party are giving way before the resistless tide of southern sentiment and reason. Every man who is capable of reflection knows that the hour of southern destiny is come. Some are too timid to meet the exigency, and magnify the danger of attempting to maintain southern rights. But the danger is not in asserting but in deserting them. It is a question not merely of honor, of right, of interest—it is a question of safety—of existence.

The South cannot retreat—for she has accepted the issue. Her State have with great unanimity asserted a common right with the North in the new territory. That right has been denied by a series of acts not in the precise words of the Wilmot Proviso, but as every man of common sense knows, with the precise design and effect. The difference is a mere verbal quibble—that would hardly be tolerated in a court from the youngest pettifogger. Every man knows that the issue is vital as to honor, as to character, as to property, as to power, as to everything essential to civilized States.

Let then the South send her chosen sons to the great Southern Council at Nashville. Let them be men of high and pure character, and of exalted ability. Let them be men in whom the South has confidence. Let them be men worthy of a great crisis—men of moral courage.

When they shall have taken counsel together and decided, their conclusions will in our opinion be sustained by the southern people with patriotism, fortitude, and energy worthy of the best days of the country.

Let us never forget that the South has the power without civil war, to re-establish her rights triumphantly.

The Nashville Convention will abound with ability, and will discuss the most important questions of the age and country. The present system will be thoroughly examined—its evils ascertained and the remedies proposed. Let every section of the South send its quota of talent and patriotism.

[Southern Press.]

One thousand of Mr. W. L. Chaplin's lady friends, in Western New York, have had a splendid silver pitcher made by Jones, Bell & Poor, of Boston, to be presented to Mr. C. "in prison" at Washington. No more than ten cents was allowed to be given by any one subscriber, and the pitcher cost \$100.—*Sea.*

Our Northern sisters are beginning to be almost as affectionate as our Northern brethren, but we are sorry indeed to see female influence exerted in such a cause. A stronger evidence of Northern sentiment could not be afforded than through this simple incident.—*Southern Press.*

The N. Y. Tribune says: "We understand that Jenny Lind, in addition to her magnificent donation of Wednesday night, has already expended upwards of \$2500 in private charities since her arrival in this country. Her truly noble and unselfish character was never more admirably displayed than in the disposition she intends making of all the proceeds of her singing in America—no matter how large the amount may be—the establishment of a free school system in Sweden and Norway."

From the Mississippiian.

WILL THE GOVERNOR CONVOKE THE LEGISLATURE OF MISSISSIPPI?

The grand obsequy over the South—now assumed to be defunct—is being celebrated in the North by festival, bonfire, rouser and ranson. In our supposed death struggle, salutations of brotherhood under the New Union of a Central Despotism are being pronounced in a thousand tribunes to mock us; and in the temples of the Most High, thanks are being offered for the victory achieved by national fraud, corruption, spoliation and treason! The good old constitution is at last trodden down.

There is something that is still more undurable, because more at home. At this our most humiliating day, we meet a townsman, a neighbor, and sometimes even a planter, with joy depicted on his visage at the infamous adjustment! With open mouth and distended ear, he listens to the readings of the final passage of the submission bills, and stoops to catch from the North the breath of abolition triumph!

Yet possibly the South—though betrayed and defrauded—despoiled and doomed to speedy waste—is not dead. Possibly the spirit of Seventy-Six is not extinct.

Virginia—ever opposed to any form or degree of central despotism—in 1847 and 1849, resolved and re-resolved, that she would not submit to the expulsion of her people and of the South from the vast territorial empire acquired from Mexico mainly by their blood and heroism, seven-tenths of the price of which, counted at 140 millions, remained to be levied on their products. Whoever supposes, ignorantly, that those solemn movements of the glorious Old Dominion were intended for mere banter, and that her people will buckle, is to be pitted for his ignorance. Such submission by Virginia is not to be supposed.

And is Mississippi to submit?

Mississippi has answered the call of Virginia, and to the appeals drawn by Calhoun and Berdon. Her people, in primary meetings and in convention, have asserted their constitutional rights; and without obstructing any platform, have urged their brethren of the assailed States to meet them in open consultation—not to dissolve the Union—but if possible, to preserve an Union under the semblance of the constitution that created it.

Notwithstanding the clamor and libels of the North—discord meetings in the South, and the adjustment scheme of Henry Clay—the arch betrayer of the South—all with intent to malign and defeat it, a Southern Convention was held. Its proceedings and resolves have met the scrutiny of the civilized world, and will pass on, cheered, cherished and cemented among the votaries of constitutional government. It is to be hoped, that Divine Providence will open the minds of men and warm their hearts in the cause of patriotism and humanity, and permit that convention to reassemble with a full and renewed delegation from the betrayed and doomed South.

Now, if ever, is the time for action.

To the everlasting reproach of the American Congress, the facts are recorded, that on the 4th of this month, the bill to bribe Texas with ten millions to sell herself—the opening wedge for the California felony—was rejected in the House by 46 votes; on the next day it was re-considered, but again rejected, but by only 8 votes; without further argument or fight, but by some latent agency of potent effect, some 38 were converted, and on the 6th the bill was once more resurrected by the help of more converts, and passed by a majority of 10! On the passage of this bill the god-covered California and the entire outrage depended; and accordingly on the 7th California was embraced, and so the Wilmot proviso sanctioned actually and potentially in the application not only to 325,678 square miles of the soil which mainly the South conquered, but enough of dismembered Texas to form two States—enough in all to form fifteen States. This is the outrage; but, our countrymen! the appliances to effect it were the greatest outrage. Fair, open, honest legislation, under constitutional warrant, is ever to be submitted to—but fraud and bribery never. If our constitution authorized a majority in Congress to expel one-half of the confederated States from the common territory, we could not call it bribery or fraud, but it would rest upon the people of the expelled States to find a remedy. But this enormity, greater than the sale of Texas in 1819, tenfold greater than the surrender by Clay of three-fourths of the Louisiana purchase in 1820, seals the South—if she submit.

Will the Southern States submit?

We have ventured to assert that Virginia will not.

Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana (outside of New Orleans), are calling on us to take the lead. They are proud of our movement of last year, and are courteous to us. The noble Clingman could not muster the one-fifth to defend the breach in the last entrenchment, but North Carolina is with us.

South Carolina—entitled to the very first honors which history can award—is silent, but prepared. The scowl at her is her crown! Amidst the twelve hundred millions of the earth the South Carolinians have no equals in their knowledge of their rights, and in their spirit to defend them! Yet South Carolina did not cause the Mississippi movement. Not at all. But she approved it. Misunderstood and traduced, she, with becoming composure, awaits the action of the South.

Will the South submit? If we do submit to this third and greatest robbery, it will impress on ourselves the stigma of recreancy—we will rivet the chain so long in preparation to bind us, and devote ourselves and our children to vassa age and a catastrophe that in less than ten years must come. Henceforward, before mankind, the Southern will be pointed at as a blaster. Can he lift an independent head? To him will be left that shadow of manhood which the whistled social outlaws assume. And this braggart bearing will soon sink into the fires that are to consume us!

We rejoice to learn that Texas has a Governor who has the sense, the virtue and the firmness to rescue her people from the bribery bill. Intelligence, virtue and spirit are still to be found in the South. And now, in view of these amazing facts, when each of the Southern members of the confederacy is looking to the others for council or example, we turn to JOHN A. QUITMAN to take some step that is to lead us out of infamy, bondage and impending ruin.

It seems that Mississippi is looked to to take the advance! We meet QUITMAN—on his honored brow, humiliation and scorn, sorrow and resolve are so mixed up that we cannot certainly say what he intends.

The resolutions of the last Legislature are before him. The resolutions of the numerous meetings confirmatory of the resolves of the Southern Convention, are before him. The late transcendent outrages by Congress are before him. The old honored constitution is scattered to the winds before him. A Central Despotism, working by bribery, is before him.

We trust he will convolve the Legislature to act on the crisis.

If he shall convene the Senators and Representatives of Mississippi, we trust each one will remember that he is to respond to his constituents; and that the Southern People are gathered for immolation and sacrifice, and are to depend on themselves.

We to the standard that shall not heed this admonition!

In the South there are nine millions of free white men, women and children. They, and the dependents whom they amply protect, clothe and feed the North and much of Europe. They have now no enemies but in the North.

Since writing the above, the Governor has sent for publication his proclamation convoking the Legislature.

THE DISTRICT SLAVE TRADE BILL.—The following is the bill to suppress the slave trade in the District of Columbia, as it has passed the Senate:—

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of January next, it shall not be lawful to bring into the District of Columbia any slave whatever, for the purpose of being placed in depot, to be subsequently transferred to any other State or place, to be sold as merchandise. And if any slave shall be brought into the said District by its owner, or by the authority or consent of its owner, contrary to the provisions of this act, such slave shall thereupon become liberated and free.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for each of the corporations of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, from time to time, and as often as may be necessary, to abate, break up, and abolish any depot or place of confinement or sales brought into the said District as merchandise, contrary to the provision of this act, by such appropriate means as may appear to either of the said corporations expedient and proper. And the same power is hereby vested in the levy court of Washington county, if any attempt shall be made within its jurisdictional limits to establish a depot or place of confinement for slave brought into the said District as merchandise for sale contrary to this act.

[FOR THE WOODVILLE REPUBLICAN.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19th, 1850.

The so-called peace measures have passed Congress, yet there is no peace, for fanaticism is still stalking abroad, seeking whom it may devour. Since I last wrote, the bill to abolish the slave trade in the District has become a law; during the discussion of the bill, Mr. Pratt, of Maryland, offered an amendment, making it no offence punishable in the penitentiary for a man less than two nor more than twenty years, to run off or attempt to run off a slave from this District, but the amendment was lost. The necessity for this amendment or some such provision will be apparent, when it is known that the Circuit Court of this District have decided in the celebrated case of the United States ex Drayton, that it is not a felony at common law to abduct or carry off a slave, but that he may have his freedom, there being the want of the *lucra causa*, or intention to appropriate the property to the taker's use, the offence can only be punished by a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars and imprisonment in the jail, which experience has shown not to be sufficiently severe to protect the owner in his slave property. Mr. Pratt introduced a bill to provide for this defect in the law on yesterday, when Mr. Hale moved to commit it, with instruction to amend it so as to provide for abolishing slavery in this District. After some debate, this motion was lost—yeas 9, nays 41—as follows:

Yeas—Baldwin, Chase, Davis, of Mass., Dodge, of Wis., Ewing, Hale, Hamlin, Seward, Winthrop.

Nays—Acheson, Badger, Barnwell, Bell, Benton, Bright, Butler, Cass, Clay, Cooper, Davis, of Miss., Dawson, Dayton, Dickinson, Dodge, of Iowa, Douglas, Downs, Felch, Foote, Fremont, Gwin, Houston, Hunter, Jones, King, Morton, Norris, Rusk, Sebastian, Shields, Smith, Sloat, Sprague, Sturgeon, Turney, Underwood, Wales, Whitcomb, Yoee—41.

This vote ought to be kept before the people, for it shows plainly who will, when opportunity offers, vote to deprive citizens of this District of their vested rights; who will vote to take private property for other than public uses, and this without compensation to the owners. Without coming to any conclusion upon the bill, it was postponed in order to take up more pressing matters, (i. e.) appropriation bills. These bills are of the utmost importance, especially when the pay or mileage of honorable members are dependent upon their passage, and at such times legislation requires reins rather than spurs.

Another great feature in this department of legislation is, that it is not thought of sufficient importance to record the yeas and nays in these latter class of amendments. The wisdom of this course must be apparent to every one—it avoids responsibility. But when any appropriation is made for the dear people, gentlemen are then patriotic enough to demand the yeas and nays.

These remarks are illustrated by the action of the Senate today upon an appropriation of \$10,000 for the Amir Bey, the first representative from Turkey. General Cass who is well versed in diplomacy, made a very sensible speech in favor of the appropriation. He took a wise and enlightened view of the matter; he regarded the sum as nothing in comparison to the advantages to be derived from commercial intercourse with Turkey, and said, "if we can conciliate the Sultan of Turkey, and secure, by means of this small appropriation, friendly intercourse between the two powers, we shall be amply reimbursed for the outlay of ten times the amount now asked." He also urged on the ground that it is the custom of oriental nations to maintain representatives from other nations. This was done in Paris when Gen. Cass was in France, and he stated that the French Government furnished a house, or rather palace, for the Turkish Minister—the rent of which could not have been less than \$7,000 per annum. The same course was adopted by the British Government. The appropriation was advocated also by Mr. Foote, and opposed by Messrs. Underwood and Turney. Mr. Pratt, by way of a joke, inquired if it was the object of the amendment to enable Amir Bey to enlarge his domestic arrangements. After a good deal of small talk, the amendment was passed by a vote of 35 yeas to 19 nays.

Our city is kept alive by the presence of Wall street brokers patriotically offering to take the instant payable to Mexico, under the treaty of Hidalgo, and disinterested gentlemen from Pennsylvania and elsewhere, urging the necessity of a change in the tariff in order to give the operator work and bread. Under these circumstances, it will not be long before the nation and the anti-fies down together.

There has been great strife in the whig party for some months past, on account of a nomination of Wm. D. Lewis as Collector of Philadelphia. Peter Scherer Smith and others who would have served their country in that capacity have been playing second fiddle to, and dancing attendance on Senators in the hopes that such conduct would bring about the result they so much wished—the rejection of Mr. Lewis. But the Senate allayed all their fears (and hopes) by confirming Mr. Lewis by a vote of 45 to 7. The most of President Taylor's nominations have been disposed of.

GRATTAN.

POETRY.



From the Southern Press.

IRON CHIMES.

BY A. J. REQUIER.

There is a block of iron hung
In the dim towers of Time,
Which, when its brazen bells are rung,
Peals a potent warning chime:
Alas! a note of monster-birth!
Our empires wrecked and riven,
It swells to ring out wrong from earth,
And ring down right from Heaven!

In the sad moonlight of the past
Crescentar it stands,
And o'er the waste of things its outcast
Stretcheth its gloomy hands:
Athwart its face are woe-like blent:
Traces of blood and tears,
And its colossal form seems bent,
Under a cloud of years.

The histories of trampled man
Are wrought about its base,
Which frowningly declare when
They fell into disgrace:
Accused of fate—their craven forms
Withered and whitening lie,
Dismantled like the drifts of storms,
And shuddering to the eye.

Wretches, who hugged the rusted chain,
Who cowered, cringed and bowed,
Nor dared to speak in manlier strain
And tell their grief aloud:
Slaves who were born to breathe and die,
Hiding the stripes they bore,
And, never once, invoked the sky
To damn the prison door.

Slaves of the heart, the head, the hands,
Enraptured in the core,
Who blessed the iron chains and bands
And rapturously wore
Its links that eat the flesh and kill
All nobleness of soul—
With blood that never left a thrill
In its insensate hole.

For them the horologe hath rung
The saddest of its chimes;
And round its hoary frame hath flung
Grim tablets of their times:
O'er these its nether hand is stretched
In token of their stains,
To the young nations yet unborn
By stratagem or chains.

Look to the leftmost shade and see
The circuit it surveys—
A disk of blood and tears, ah! me,
But radiant with rays:
Lit with a glory not of morn,
Moon, stars—or pearl, nor stone—
But with the glory of men born
To hold on to their own.

The glory of the Roman arm
That struck a tyrant down,
When his quick blood beat proudly warm,
Under the purple gown:
The glory of the deathless few
Whose fame survives a race,
And of the later Greek who threw
His life blood on its face.

Of Timoleon and Bruce—of Tell—
Of Washington—whose grave
Hath tolled a never-ceasing knell
To potentate and slave:
Of those who dared to love the right
More than they feared the wrong,
And glow—the star-enkindled night
Of chivalry and song!

Look to it well, grave Senators,
Who sit upon this land,
Look to the clock of woes and wars
With its prophetic hand:
The ship of State is a good craft,
As staunch as oak can be,
But a storm may thunder on its mast
And sink it in the sea!

Look to it well—there is a shade
Upon its troubled face,
And deeper now gleam the tints made
By every fearful trace:
Sad brows are bending on us there,
From the discolored past,
And something darkens the noon air
Which moaneth in the blast.

The ship of State is a good craft,
As staunch as oak can be,
But a storm may thunder on its mast
And sink it in the sea!
And woe to them who tread its deck
With parried hands,
To drive it a dismembered wreck
Upon the shoals and sands.

There is a sound of brazen bells—
A strange, mysterious chime,
Which, ever and anon, uprings
From the dim towers of Time;
A sound potent as it may be,
Of some impending woe—
God help the good ship on the sea
Tho' the North-easter's blow!